

As a T-Mobile subscriber, consumer, and the owner of a small technology company, I oppose the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

As a T-Mobile subscriber, I will be affected by the merger. I fear that customer service will be worse under AT&T. T-Mobile's customer service has been helpful and responsive to me. AT&T's customer service has a terrible reputation.

As a consumer, I will be at a disadvantage. With two GSM carriers, I have a choice. Should the merger take place, there will be only one GSM carrier in this country. AT&T's only real competitor will be with Verizon, which uses a different, incompatible technology. For anyone who wants one phone that works all over the world, AT&T will be the only choice. Surely, it knows that and will use that competitive advantage against consumers. Without another GSM carrier, what incentive will AT&T have to offer good service, good customer service, and competitive prices? What incentive will it have to offer innovative services and products? There won't be any place else to go for GSM service in this country.

As a business owner, I will have the extra, unplanned expense of replacing some of my software development equipment. I write software applications for smart phones. I will have to replace one of my phones, a Nokia N900, because it is not compatible with AT&T's 3G network. I will have to retire the N900, which is a perfectly good phone and a very good phone for software development. There may not be another phone that is as open as it is. It's one thing for me to buy new phones as the technology changes. It's another, completely unacceptable thing for me to buy phones because a company I don't patronize is allowed to pull my network out from under me.

For these reasons, I urge the FCC to forbid the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.